



*Dr. Timothy Shriver, nephew of former U.S. President John F. Kennedy, meeting with members of The Tralee Together for Special Olympics Club ahead of his speech.  
Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan*

## *Does Your Faith Have Vision?*

Sunday, October 27, 2019

10 am

**First Congregational Church of Greenwich** declares itself to be open and affirming;  
open to all for participation, membership, leadership, and employment, and  
affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God.

We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of  
Greenwich. Please join us in the auditorium after worship for our Community Hour.

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*Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.*



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

*Prelude Religieuse*

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, *Organist*

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

*(please sign and pass the red fellowship pad found at the end of your row.)*

Reverend Carla Dietz

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Reverend Patrick Collins

Leader: Let us gather together and give thanks to God,

**People: For the love of God will never end.**

Leader: Let we who love God be unashamed to declare it,

**People: Because God has answered our cries for help.**

Leader: The Lord our God has met our every need,

**People: Therefore, we proclaim the love of God!**

## CHORAL INTROIT

The Chancel Choir

## HYMN\*

*Praise to the Living God*

New Century (black) Hymnal #8

## GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Reverend Patrick Collins

**God help us to change.**

**To change ourselves and to change our world.**

**To know the need for it.**

**To deal with the pain of it.**

**To feel the joy of it.**

**To undertake the journey without understanding the destination.**

**The art of gentle revolution. Amen.**

## BAPTISM

Reverend Carla Dietz

Frank Albert Andrea, V, ("Chipper"), son of Karina and Frank Andrea and grandson of Eric and Lesley Schless and Tim and Donna Andrea.

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*1 Thessalonians 5:13-22*

“Go forth into the world in peace;  
Be of good courage;  
Hold fast that which is good;  
Render to no one evil for evil;  
Strengthen the faint hearted;  
Support the weak;  
Help the afflicted;  
Honor everyone;  
Love and serve the Lord,  
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Be among you and remain with you always.”

## BAPTISMAL HYMN\*

*Child of Blessing*

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

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*Children will now leave to go to their Church School classrooms. Parents are welcome to accompany their children to their room and return to the service when they are able. All classrooms except 6th grade are on the Preschool level. Baby Nursery & Toddler Room in Red Door; 3- & 4-year-olds in Blue Door; Kindergarten & 1st Grade in Rainbow Door; 2nd Grade in Gold Door; 3rd grade in Purple Door; 4th & 5th Grades in the Green Door; 6th grade in Rick's Room around the corner from the Lounge. **As they leave the church this morning, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will gather in the Daniels Center for an introduction to the new Rotation Lesson. Then they will go to their assigned classrooms.***

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*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit*

## FIRST LESSON

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

*Excerpt from a speech by Tim Shriver*

You cannot believe in or practice unitive consciousness as long as you exclude and marginalize others, whether it is women or people of different sexual orientations or people of religious or ethnic minorities or, in my experience, people with intellectual disabilities. In many cultures these people are excluded and oppressed, though often unconsciously, even more so than other marginalized groups. They are thought to be hopeless. Mostly they are ignored and forgotten.

For twenty years I have been mentored by these same people. I have met person after person who emanates a kind of radiant light. After a while, even the densest of us may have our eyes opened to that something which transcends all superficial distractions of disability: the unimaginable beauty of every person. That beauty is ours for the seeing if only we have the eyes to see, if only we pay attention.

I try to maintain those eyes as I engage in this work. I fail mostly, but once in a while I succeed, and when I do, I feel like I am touching a "sweet spot" of wonder and peace. It enables me to be present to people in a way that I can communicate to them that I love them unconditionally. There are no conditions to our unity, to our oneness.

Many times I've watched, for instance, as a person with Down Syndrome stands with a gold medal around her neck, arms raised high to a cheering crowd. I can't look at that child, at that human being, without slipping out of dualistic thinking. They are "both-and" moments where shadow and light coexist in the same experience. Divine energy shoots vertically through me like a force, and says, "See! Look! Pay attention to what is right in front of you! That is all you need to know!"

## ANTHEM

*A Symphony of Praise*

The Youth Choir  
Dana Mengel (b. 1960)  
Carolyn Paulus, director  
Vance Briceland, piano

## SECOND LESSON

Lynn Hawxhurst

*Luke 16:19-31 (The Message)*

"There once was a rich man, expensively dressed in the latest fashions, wasting his days in conspicuous consumption. A poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, had been dumped on his doorstep. All he lived for was to get a meal from scraps off the rich man's table. His best friends were the dogs who came and licked his sores.

"Then he died, this poor man, and was taken up by the angels to the lap of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell and in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham in the distance and Lazarus in his lap. He called out, 'Father Abraham, mercy!'

Have mercy! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water to cool my tongue. I'm in agony in this fire.'

"But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that in your lifetime you got the good things and Lazarus the bad things. It's not like that here. Here he's consoled and you're tormented. Besides, in all these matters there is a huge chasm set between us so that no one can go from us to you even if he wanted to, nor can anyone cross over from you to us.'

"The rich man said, 'Then let me ask you, Father: Send him to the house of my father where I have five brothers, so he can tell them the score and warn them so they won't end up here in this place of torment.'

"Abraham answered, 'They have Moses and the Prophets to tell them the score. Let them listen to them.'

"I know, Father Abraham,' he said, 'but they're not listening. If someone came back to them from the dead, they would change their ways.'

"Abraham replied, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they're not going to be convinced by someone who rises from the dead.'"

## MESSAGE

*Does Your Faith Have Vision?*

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

## HYMN\*

*Be Thou My Vision*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal #391

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(praise for who God is, with thanksgiving for what God does and with requests for God to heal, transform)*

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

## CALL TO OFFERING

*Using a Smartphone? Text FCCOG Donate to 73256*

Jenny Gartner

## OFFERTORY

*Laudate Dominum*

The Chancel Choir  
W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)  
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

*Translation:*

*Praise the Lord, all nations;*

*Praise Him, all people.*

*For He has bestowed His mercy upon us,*

*And the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever, and for generations of generations. Amen.*

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit*

## DOXOLOGY\*

*(offering praise and thanksgiving for meeting our needs and using us to bring God's mission to the world.)*



Praise God from whom all\_ bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low.



Praise God a- bove ye\_ hea - ven'ly host; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION\*

Jenny Gartner

## CLOSING HYMN\*

New Century Hymnal #611

*O Day of God, Draw Near*

## BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Ceremonial March*

Christopher Tambling (b. 1964)

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit*

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*The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given today in joyful celebration of the baptism of Frank Albert Andrea, V ("Chipper") by his parents.*

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*Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.*

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## A Note about Welcoming Children

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**To our parents:** God put the wiggle in children... do not feel you have to suppress it during worship. The presence of children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." At First Church we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the church, and to one another. To the members of our congregation, please know that a smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children.

For those who are interested, we do have child care available for babies and toddlers every Sunday, for the entirety of the church service, in the preschool classrooms. For toddlers and preschoolers who stay in church, there is a "PrayGround" in the back of the chapel with a rug and a few quiet play things. Chairs and rocking chairs are reserved for parents to supervise their children if you do not need to be on the rug with them. There are also additional children's books on the bookshelves near the back of the chapel.



### Radio Ministry

The 10:00 am service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. In addition, the service is available through the church's website at [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org). A bulletin is there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermon recordings are also available.



All services are now live-streamed on **YouTube.com**. Search for First Congregational Church of Greenwich and subscribe to our channel.

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## NEWS & NOTICES

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### TODAY



#### Church School

**Regular Church School today:** Baby and Toddler Room continues in the Preschool Red Door Classroom. 3's and 4's are in the Blue Door and can be dropped off before the service begins. During the service, please feel free to bring your preschool-age children to the "PrayGround" in the Chapel.



#### Choir Rehearsals Today

**Cherub Choir:** Rainbow Room (Lower Level) 11:15-11:45 am

**Children's Choir:** Music Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) 11:15 am -12 pm

**Youth Choir:** Choir Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) 11:15 am -12:15 pm



#### Halloween Party at Pilgrim Towers Today after church

Although this is driven by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and other church school families, we are happy to have others join us if you would like. **Just meet us in the Preschool Green Door right after church (by 11:15).** Pilgrim Towers is at 125 Washington Court, Stamford. One block north of UCONN. Turn left at North Street and then left onto Washington Court. Pilgrim Towers is at the end of the block on the right. Visitor parking in the back of the building. Lunch is served. We leave the party at about 12:45.





**TODAY!! Would you like to learn more about First Church?  
11:15 am in the lounge**

Folks with an interest in First Church are invited to have "Coffee with Pastors." Child care will be provided.

### ***Mindful Self-Compassion Workshop with Karen Pacent***

**11:15 am – 12:15 pm in Rick's Room**

Self-compassion is a learned practice which teaches us to become a good friend to ourselves when we need it most. It allows us to become an inner ally rather than an inner enemy. Hundreds of research studies show that self-compassion is strongly related to well-being in adults. Its benefits include less anxiety, depression, and stress; greater happiness and life satisfaction; better coping skills; and better relationships.



### **Parish Nurse**

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office (to the right of the Auditorium stage). During the week, she is available by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 821.



### **From the Stewardship Committee**

In Matthew 6:3, Jesus says "but when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Perhaps this is why the **vital and important work** of the church is not well known.

You can come to church for years and not know that Women's Fellowship selects about 40 charities annually to receive support. Last year, First Church gave \$158,700 to shelter the homeless, feed the food insecure, promote literacy, provide job training, help the elderly, and more.

You can be a member here for years and not know that 100% of the proceeds from the Christmas tree sales go to charity. You can be a member here for years and not know about the meal trains or letters to veterans or how often our pastors visit the sick.

Your pledge makes the vital and important work of the church possible. Please pledge this year to help us achieve new heights in outreach, faith formation, worship, and hospitality to welcome our neighbors into the First Church family.

To make your pledge, please visit [www.iamfirstchurch.com](http://www.iamfirstchurch.com). If you prefer, you can email your pledge to Steve Summerton at [steves@fccog.org](mailto:steves@fccog.org) or send via mail to the church office.



**FIRST CHURCH  
PRESCHOOL**

"Learning Through Caring - For Ourselves, Each Other & Our Earth!"  
Preschool of First Congregational Church, Concord, VT

**OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2020-2021  
SCHOOL YEAR IS STILL OPEN!**

## UPCOMING



**Holy C(hurch) O(n) W(ednesday)**

**Wednesday, October 30, 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

This Fall, we are introducing HOLY C.O.W., a Wednesday evening inter-generational program that includes a light meal for all, informational workshops, fun classes, and an opportunity for adults, youth, and kids to do something fun together mid-week. Includes a light supper and a final gathering. Please sign up on [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org).

**Class 1: *Handel's Messiah: Hallelujah or Hallelujah...it's over!***

*Location: The Meetinghouse*

*With Craig Scott Symons*

For centuries, *Messiah* has brought comfort and joy to countless generations of performers and audience members alike. But what is the background on probably the most famous oratorio ever written? Find out as we spend a whirlwind session on history, tradition, and reality of this amazing composition!

**Class 2: *Explore the Salem Witch Trials***

*Location: The Auditorium*

*With Patrick Collins and Carla Dietz*

**Class 3: *Thanksgiving Creations... Some for You and Some to Share!***

*Location: The kitchen and Rick's Room*

*With Rosemary and Friends*

Make something that expresses gratitude for a Thanksgiving celebration.

**Women's  
Retreat** **Last Call for the Women's Retreat!**

There are still a few spots left!

Please contact Rosemary at [RosemaryL@fccog.org](mailto:RosemaryL@fccog.org) or call 203-637-1791 x820 ASAP if you are interested.

**When:** Saturday, November 2 - Sunday, November 3

**Where:** Stony Point Center, just over the Cuomo Bridge

**Cost:** \$175 (meals included)



### Collection Drive for *Homes for The Brave*

The Women’s Fellowship is sponsoring a Veterans Day drive in support of ABRI-Homes for the Brave in Bridgeport.

As recipients of the Women’s Fellowship grant process, we have been made aware of the wonderful work that is done in support of female veterans and their children, as well as the significant challenges they face.

We will be collecting items on **Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**, Veterans Day weekend.

The following is a list of top needs:

- Blankets (Twin/Full)
- Bras (various sizes – NEW ONLY)
- Coffee & Powdered Creamer
- Sugar/Non-Calorie Sweetener
- GBT Bus Tokens
- Gift Cards (\$25 Walmart, grocery or dept. store, gas, \$10 Subway/Dunkin/Food)

Many more items listed at [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org) under Ministries/Women’s Fellowship. We hope you will join us in our support of this important drive.

## NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich • 203-637-1875  
[www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room](http://www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room)

With less than a week to go before Halloween, we still have some costumes...  
AND they’re 50 percent off, so come grab a few extras.

### Manager Leanne’s Wish List:

Ladies Handbags (they sell super-fast), Ladies Fall/Winter Dresses, Children's Shoes

#### Shop Hours:

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm  
Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm

#### Donations accepted:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Friday & Saturday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



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## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue • Old Greenwich CT 06870

203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

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Ministers: The members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Interim Senior Pastor: Reverend Carla Dietz

Associate Pastor: Reverend Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Reverend Avery C. Manchester

Minister of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration and Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

Pastors Emeriti: Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Reverend Sally Colegrove